



Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea

*Serving Southwick, Portslade,
Hangleton and West Blatchington*

St Theresa's: Old Shoreham Rd, Southwick, BN42 4RY

St George's: Court Farm Road, Hove, BN3 7QR

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Find out more: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/safeguarding/home>

School: St Mary's, Church Road, Portslade
www.stmarys.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Also serving the parishes:

Cottesmore: www.cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Cardinal Newman: www.cncs.co.uk



If you use Facebook, please join our group page,
Catholics West Hove

www.facebook.com/groups/1510048742698794/

FHC Prayer Sponsors

If you would like to be a prayer sponsor for one of our young people making their FHC in May 2024, please email the office or speak to Fr Tony.

Advent and Christmas

Blessing of Cribs & Decorating of Trees

Sunday 17th December, at the 9 & 11am Masses

Children & their families will help put the figures in the cribs during Mass, and to decorate the trees after Mass.

Advent Penitential Service

Sunday 17th December, 3pm, St Theresa's

A short service followed by adoration and the opportunity for individual Confessions.

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

5:30pm, St Theresa's (family friendly)

9pm, St George's (Polish)

17th Dec 2023: 3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B
Weekdays: Advent Week 3

Fr Tony Writes:

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice! (x2)

Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice! (x2)

We will be singing this as a round this weekend. It comes from today's entrance antiphon, which in turn comes from St Paul's letter to the Philippians (4:4).

This Third Sunday of Advent is called 'Gaudete Sunday' for that reason: 'Gaudete' is just Latin for 'Rejoice'. This may remind you of Steely Span's popularisation of an old Latin Carol: *Gaudete gaudete, Christus est natus ex Maria virgine, gaudete*. (Rejoice, Christ is born of the Virgin Mary). Yet we are over a week away from celebrating that, so why are we rejoicing this weekend?

Gaudete reminds us of an important aspect of our faith, and one that is particularly emphasised in Advent: the virtue of hope. Of course we do not have to hope for the birth of Christ as we know that has already happened. But we do hope for the completion of the salvation that begins with the coming of Christ. And because that hope is not like our ordinary hopes, ('I hope it will snow at Christmas'; 'I hope Brighton get a top four place'), but rather is assured by God's promises, even if we do not see it yet, then we can rejoice now, amid the many problems and difficulties we face as individuals and as a society.

Rejoice in the Lord always!

reMarkable

A short series of talks by Fr Tony on the Gospel of Mark

Wednesday 10th, 17th & 24th January, St Theresa's, 7:45pm. (Mass at 7pm, followed by refreshments.)

This year on Sundays we will be hearing the Gospel of Mark. It is the shortest and most dynamic of Gospels. It was probably written in Rome, for a small Church community that had known St Peter, and was now enduring persecution and seeing people falling away.

What was it like to hear the Gospel for the first time, possibly hidden secretly in a room in the city? The first session on the 10th January, will be a 'read through' of the whole Gospel, after a brief 'scene setting' to try to 'capture' its atmosphere. Then on the 17th and the 24th we will look more closely at key features and themes of Mark's story of Jesus.

'Midnight' Mass will be available at St Peter's, Portland Road, and the Sacred Heart, Norton Road.

Christmas Day

9am, St Theresa's

11am, St George's

1pm, St George's (Polish)



The Season of Christmas

Tuesday 26th (St Stephen), 10am Mass, St George's

Wednesday 27th, NO MASS

Thursday 28th — Sunday 31st, Normal Mass times

New Year's Day: Mary Mother of God

Mass 10am, St George's

Tuesday 2nd January, NO MASS

6-7th January: The Epiphany, Masses as usual

Please Pray For...

All who are sick in the parish particularly:

Cheryl Evans, Colette, Elizabeth Hopkins, Julie Laker, Terry Phipps, Tom Hulse and Winifred Wilde.

Those on our regular prayer list including:

Eileen McLoughlin, Maria Parente, Jean Ryan, and Chris & Vince Neal.

Those who have died recently especially:

Joyce Monasingh, (funeral Fri 22nd Dec, 12 noon, Sacred Heart, Hove), as well as those whose anniversaries occur this month. A full list of sick parishioners and anniversaries can be found on the parish website.

This week the foodbank needs:



**Coffee; Long Life Juice;
Tinned Rice Pudding.**

We have a pasta mountain at the moment so please don't buy us any more.

Donations may be dropped into the boxes at the back of either of our churches. *Thank you for your support.*

Crib Offering 2023

To support the Catholic Children's Society A&B Crisis Fund

The Catholic Children's Society (CCS) is helping local families in crisis who are struggling to put food on the table, keep warm and provide a safe home for their children. Recently CCS helped a mother and her two young sons who were evicted from their home when the landlord sold the property. They were moved into Local Authority housing, but the flat was completely empty, cold and drafty. Their previous home was furnished, and they had no money to buy even a bed. The mother and children slept on her coat on the bare floor. Both children had asthma and their health quickly deteriorated in the cold flat. CCS provided a grant to help them buy beds, warm fleece bedding, thick duvets, and rugs, to keep the family warm through winter. The mother said:

"I cannot believe the difference this has made! I can tuck my children into their very own beds at night and keep them warm and cosy. Thank you for caring about us."

There are many more vulnerable families in need of support and our parish will be donating our Crib Offering to support this important work. Every penny donated will be given out via CCS's A&B Crisis Fund to support local families in need. You can donate in church using the gift aid envelopes provided, or via our new contactless giving device, alternatively donate via the CCS website:

<https://www.cathchild.org.uk/crib/>



Weekly Timetable

Sat 16th Dec	3pm Carols & Mince Pies, St George's Confession 4:45-5:15pm 5pm Evening Prayer 5:30pm Mass, St Theresa's	<i>All Parishioners</i>
Sun 17th Dec 3rd Sunday of Advent: Gaudete Sunday	8:30am Morning Prayer 9am Mass, St Theresa's <i>With crib blessing</i> 11am Mass, St George's <i>With crib blessing</i> 3pm Penitential Service, St Theresa's	<i>Mary Walsh & Joseph Mitchell RIP</i> <i>Joyce Monasingh RIP</i>
Tues 19th Dec	10am Mass, St George's	<i>Sabino Rato RIP</i>
Wed 20th Dec	7pm Mass, St Theresa's	<i>Kevan Lloyd RIP</i>
Thurs 21st Dec St Peter Canisius	10am Mass, St George's <i>Adoration to 10:45</i>	<i>Frank & Lorna Delvard</i>
Fri 22nd Dec	No 10am Mass 12noon, Funeral Mass of Joyce Monasingh, Sacred Heart, Hove	
Sat 23rd Dec	Confession 4:45-5:15pm 5pm Evening Prayer 5:30pm Mass, St Theresa's	
Sun 24th Dec 4th Sunday of Advent Expectant Mothers	8:30am Morning Prayer 9am Mass, St Theresa's 11am Mass, St George's	<i>All Parishioners</i>

For Christmas Masses see facing page

Parish office closed Tuesday – Thursday this week.

Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary School

Cottesmore are seeking to appoint a Clerk to Governors. Part-Time, Permanent Post. NJC Scale 5 (Senior Clerk) £22,571 - £24,920 pro rata. 4 hours per week, plus extra hours for clerking working groups and panels.

We are ideally looking for an experienced professional who can be employed at the Senior Clerk level. We seek someone who will provide high level advice, support, and administrative assistance to our governing body. You must have experience of minute-taking, good ICT and communication skills and be able to work with minimal supervision. We currently use Microsoft Office 365 cloud email and document sharing systems, so familiarity with this would be an advantage. Training for clerks is provided by the local authority, as well as opportunities to network with other clerks. Flexibility in terms of working hours is required.

For further information please contact: Chair of Governors suehollow@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk.

You can find out more about us on our school website: <http://www.cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk/>.

We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine. For more information and ways to support them see: cbcew.org.uk/category/cbcew/international/countries/ukraine/